

Discover Newsletter

January 2020

Tree growing programme



Dear Friends

With many thanks for your generous support, Discover has already given about £3000 for tree growing in Uganda and Zimbabwe.

We speak of tree growing, not tree planting, because of the enormous importance of caring for trees after they have been planted. Tree growing in Africa is a bigger challenge than here in Germany. Here we go to the garden centre and buy a tree that is already some metres high. In Africa one often starts with seeds, which are then cared for in a nursery before being planted out in the field when they are large enough. In other cases, the shoots that spontaneously come through the ground or sprout from old tree stumps are protected and allowed to grow.

In their nursery, the Kasese Network have raised 1500 seedlings which, when the rains come in March or



Children enjoy making paper plant pots for new seeds – once planted out, paper pots rot in the ground and save the problem of plastic waste



Children enjoy planting trees, and in doing so develop a love for nature and the environment.

April, will be distributed to 15 farmers, who have already been trained, for planting. The Network is about to start another batch of 1500 seedlings. Half the trees are indigenous, some of which have become very rare, and half are timber trees which will give the farmer a source of income in about 10 years from now.

Eric Kihuluka in Kaliro had the good fortune to find good seedlings being sold very cheaply. 50 trees were planted by teachers and pupils in the grounds of 14 schools and 30 around 6 health centres, a total of 1000. Often the areas around institutions are very bare. They have planted fruit trees, fast-growing indigenous trees which are useful for timber and soursop, a tall tree with medicinal properties.

Discover Zimbabwe have established the “Green4Life” project which has already planted 6000 trees in 2019. Their aim is to restore self-generating woods in districts that have suffered massive deforestation. Traditional, religious and political leaders are all involved in promoting this work. Many trees are planted by school children; each child plants and cares for a tree every year. Most of the trees being planted are indigenous, wild fruit trees. Their aim is to work with an average 600 school children in each of 10 schools to plant and care for over 12,000 trees over the next two years.

Locally here in the Winnenden area, we are delighted to have established a close link with a local group who are running “Project Trees 2020”. They have kindly made a link to our Discover Tree planting in Africa appeal. At their invitation, to celebrate the UN inspired International Day of Forests (Saturday 21.3.2020), we will plant a tree in Winnenden.

Please continue to help us to support tree growing in Africa – it is the very least we can do to compensate for our carbon footprints. The climate crisis is rapidly getting worse, and affects African people unfairly, because they have contributed little to the crisis. Tree growing in Africa helps fertility, gives shade, provides fruits, timber and firewood, conserves moisture, cleans the air and helps the climate.

Many greetings,

Keith Lindsey and our planning group in Germany



This group of pupils and teachers at Hamamaoko Primary school in Zimbabwe applaud the planting of a guava tree. Our partner Joachem Nyamande stands on the right. Many children at the school had dandruff and ringworm, a fungal infection on the scalp. They were shown how to make medicinal oil with guava leaves.